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winds had also a progressive motion. Had the different winds by which the whirlwinds were formed been of equal violence, the whirlwinds would have been stationary confisting only of a circular motion; but being of unequal violence, the whirlwinds had a progressive motion, proceeding in different directions at different places,

according to the direction of the strongest wind.

The fummer preceding this hurricane had been in some respects different from what is common in this part of the There had been an uncommon drought for two months before, which was no where more fevere than in the towns upon the river; and in no fummer for feveral years, have we had so much hot weather. This circumstance is agreeable to the presumption of theory; for, if whirlwinds and hurricanes are derived from the great rarefaction of some part of the atmosphere, it might be expected that the times in which they would happen, would be in the most calm, or hot weather.

N° X.

A Letter from J. MADISON, Esquire, to D. RIT-TENHOUSE, Esquire.

William and Mary College, Virginia, November, 1779.

DEAR SIR,

GREEABLY to promise, I now transmit you a feries of observations upon our climate. comprehend an entire year, and part of the fucceeding. I thought once of fending you only a mean of the observations for each month, but as it was a part of our natural history, which has never yet been made public, I have therefore fent a copy of the journal. Some fingular circumstances

cumstances too attending the barometer I thought deserved to be particularly noted, which could not nave been done had the first idea been adopted. For the observations upon the barometer not only shew us the different flates of the atmosphere, but, perhaps, may throw farther light upon the true cause of the Aurora Borealis. The fact is, that a fall of the barometer always fucceeds that phenomenon. The frequency of its appearance lately, gave me an opportunity of observing this effect at different times. It has for some time been supposed (after Dr. Franklin had first given rise to the opinion) to be an electrical appearance; and I think, the levity of the atmosphere, as proved by the barometer, adds great weight to that supposition: since it is well known to every electrician, that a rarefaction of the air, in our experiments, will always produce fimilar appearances. One circumstance indeed was observable, that a change of weather, to wet, generally fucceeded; but as this effect was not fo constant, it was not much attended to. But the barometer by shewing that the atmosphere is actually lighter, and of consequence more rarefied at the time of such appearances than at others, evinces at least, that it is in a flate the most likely to exhibit them; it is to be observed also, that the greatest fall of the barometer is not prior to, but always fucceeds this appearance; shewing that the rarefaction first begins in the upper parts of the atmosphere.

It is remarkable that the range of the barometer was not more than one inch and a tenth throughout the whole year, nor do I remember ever to have seen a greater difference at any time not included in the journal; whilst we see in other countries, the atmosphere undergoing changes so great as to essect a difference of three or four inches. Whence is it then that we are exposed to more violent storms of wind and rain? Perhaps indeed the changes here, though not so great, may be more sudden, of which some remarkable instances may be seen in the journal.

Our coldest winds, as well as the most violent, are the north-west. The fouth and fouth-west winds are the hottest, though the sensations of heat to which we are exposed, do not correspond to the different degrees marked by the thermometer, as they depend much upon a current of air with which we are generally favoured about the hottest time of the day, and copious sweating. I do not recollect ever to have feen the thermometer here at more than 95, though Dr. Franklin mentions that in June 1750, it stood at 100 in the shade at Philadelphia, when he observes, "I expected that the natural heat of the body, 96, added " to the heat of the air, 100, should jointly have created " or produced a much greater degree of heat in the body; " but the fact was, that my body never grew fo hot as the " air that furrounded it, or the inanimate bodies immerf-" ed in the same. For I remember well, that the desk, "when I laid my arm upon it, a chair when I fat down " in it, all felt exceeding warm to me, as if they had been "warmed before the fire. And I suppose a dead body " would have acquired the temperature of the air, though " a living one, by continual fweating, and by the eva-" poration of that sweat was kept cold." I have been the more particular in transcribing this passage from the works of this philosopher, as it certainly shews to whom the merit of certain late discoveries, which have made so much noise in the philosophical world, most justly belongs; I mean, that power which the human as well as all animate bodies have, of counteracting the heat of an atmosphere in which they are placed. For what do all the experiments upon heated rooms evince, farther than had before been published by the doctor? It is thus that Franklin fetting in his chair, like Newton reasoning upon the figure of the earth, could shew what must cost others infinite labour and fatigue. But, though the effect was observed and attributed to evaporation, yet I do not remember that it is any where shewn in what manner evaporation

poration produces cold. Hamilton, in his excellent effay upon the ascent of vapors, speaking of the natures of folution and evaporation, has these words, "how cold is " produced in either case, I cannot pretend to say." The doctor has given the most probable explanation of the manner in which it is produced by folution, and I think the following, which is collected from his general doctrine may be applied to evaporation. It is admitted that there is a stronger attraction between heat and water, or such like fluid, than between heat and any other body, for on this account it is that bodies are cooled when plunged into water. When ever therefore, water for instance, is put upon any part of the human body, its natural heat is more attracted in that part by the water, than by the flesh, and therefore, the water in going off in the form of vapour carries with it part of the heat, and confequently leaves that place in a negative state, or with less than its natural quantity. It is the same with the thermometer. Hence it is, that we are much hotter frequently when the thermometer scarcely exceeds 82 or 83, there being no current of air to carry off the moisture from the surface of the body, than when it even stands as high as 90 or 95.

I am, with the greatest respect,

Your fervant and friend,

J. MADISON.

The Observations upon the Thermometer were made at eight, twelve and sour o'clock, in the summer. In the winter, the last

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AUGUST, 1777.

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2 :	A E	Cer	ಜ್ಞ	~		?	8	It was hotter according to the fenfation of the
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Q :	≱ ;	Clear	30	4	26	82	83	Frequent rain.
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Obfervations. Much rain. * The lowest. Thermometer. 8 H. | 12 H. | 4 H. 822 65 242 83 8 4 6 5 ***** 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 H 4 2 0 8 9 2 H 8 8 9 4 7 Barometer. 9 10 1 2220 Weather. Clear
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Obfervations.		The ground frozen.	Froft. Wind high and cold. * Remarkable Aurora Borealis at 7 o'clock this evening. It was terminated towards the eaft by the two flars \(\beta\) and \(\eta\) in Auriga, and its greateft altitude reached nearly Capella. The flars in the tail of the Great Bear terminated it to the welft. It is observable that the barometer was falling from the 18th, and was never observed \(\eta\) or \(\eta\) but once, little after the vernal equinox, throughout the whole year, as it was so so of one after the Aurora. Its sudden rife was also remarkable. It became cloudy about one o'clock. † Snow fell 7\frac{1}{2} inches in 24 hours.
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Obfervations. Snow in the evening. Cloudy evening. An Aurora. 1777. Thermometer. 8 H. | 12 H. | 3 H. R K BE Z H Barometer. 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 \mathbf{c} 口 Weather. Clear Clear Clear Clear Clear Clear Cloudy Cloudy Cloudy Clear Clear Clear Clear Clear Clear Clear Clear Cloudy Cloudy Cloudy Cloudy Cloudy Cloudy Cloudy Cloudy Cloudy Clear Winds. ENZNE E E Days.

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Obfervations. Much rain in the evening. Wind W at 8. 1778. ARY, Thermometer. 3464 368 4 8 34444 **64 14** þ 2 M Barometer. 囯 H Weather. Clear Cloudy Clear Winds. Days.

MARCH, 1778.

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z		Cloudy	30	6 1	45	47	57	
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s w		Clear	, e,	<u>.</u> د	69	7.7	.62	
S W		Cloudy	9	1 7	6,	.3	65.	The wind at N W for part of the day.
s w		Cloudy	8	0	63	74	26	
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o Z	ы	Cloudy	30	0 I	44	45	26	
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≱ ; z ;		Cloudy	50	0 5	45	48	49	Ditto.
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Observations. Lightening and thunder. Thermometer. H. | 12 H. | 3 H. 55 88119819888 527.28 55.85.65 58.27.28 0 500 700000000000V0V Barometer. **~**∞∞ ○ 4 4 H H H H O Ø **¢** 222 22222 Weather. Clear Clear Cloudy Clear Clear Clear Rainy Rainy Rainy Rainy Clear Rainy Rainy Rainy Clear Winds. E E P N E E P N P P N P P N z z z Days. 36878

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JULY, 1778.

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